

Work Session/Regular Meeting
Minutes
April 3, 2006

A Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Leonia, Bergen County, New Jersey, was held this evening in the Borough Hall Annex, commencing at 7:35pm

Council Present: Mayor Laurence Cherchi, Councilperson Hawkins, Heveran, Mitrani, Raucci, Ryan, Puzzo

Council Absent: none

Also Present: Fran Lehmann, Borough Clerk, Brian Giblin Borough Attorney, Victoria Miragliotta, Borough Administrator

Mayor Laurence Cherchi called the meeting to order.

Mayor Laurence Cherchi asked everyone to stand while Councilman President Puzzo led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

OPEN MEETING STATEMENT

Conditions of the Open Meeting Act have been met by Notice placed on the Bulletin Board at Borough Hall and notices sent to the Official Newspaper.

Mayor Cherchi pointed out the Fire Exit.

COMMENDATIONS - Mayor Cherchi presented commendations to John Dunn, Fire chief and Ron Chace, Deputy Fire Chief for their outstanding volunteerism when the radio communications went down.

PRESENTATION

Councilman Ryan made a motion to move to the front of the agenda, the presentation by Fire Chief Dunn and Deputy Fire Chief Chace, seconded by Councilman Raucci. All in favor none opposed.

Fire Chief John Dunn and Deputy Chief Ron Chace made a presentation regarding the communications system that is no longer operational at Police Headquarters. The Council questioned Chief Dunn on various issues.

Chief Ziegler made a presentation to the Governing Body and those assembled. Chief Ziegler explained recent regulations regarding truck traffic. Chief Ziegler reported on productivity of the Department and that Leonia Police Department is #2 in the County. Leonia Police Department is #3 in DWI arrests in the County.

47 Sergeant Carlson – Reported that he went around the Borough with an engineer from
48 Birdsall and reviewed various traffic issues. Sgt. Carlson and the engineer reviewed the
49 areas where the Council would like to place three and four way stop signs. Sgt. Carlson
50 explained why the stop signs could not be installed in certain locations.

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52 Brookside Ave. No Left Turn at Grand Avenue – Councilwoman Heveran questioned the
53 procedure to determine if the sign is legal. Sgt. Carlson stated he gave the number for
54 DOT to the Borough Clerk. The Borough Clerk stated she got a verbal that it was not
55 approved. Mayor Cherchi asked Sgt. Carlson to review the stop signs and report on what
56 is missing from the Borough Code. Sgt. Carlson stated that the engineer suggested some
57 stop signs should be removed and others should be added. Sgt. Carlson reported that he
58 has applied for a grant from the County regarding signs.

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60 Leonia Arts - Kathy Pecht 215 Fort Lee Road, Susie Levy 271 Fort Lee Road;
61 summarized the handout in the Meeting Packet. Mrs. Pecht explained that the group was
62 looking to be covered as a quasi committee of the Borough similar to the Sports Boosters.
63 After a discussion the group was advised to look into their own insurance or possibly
64 “piggybacking” onto the Players Guild insurance while the Borough went through the
65 process of making them a quasi – organization of the Borough.

66 67 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

68 Councilman Puzzo made a motion to bypass the minutes for this meeting, seconded by
69 Councilman Hawkins. All in favor; none opposed

70 71 **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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73 Martin Monaco – 352 Highwood Avenue. - Mr. Monaco spoke about the issue of
74 sidewalk repair in the Borough. Mr. Monaco would like to know when the ordinance
75 regarding sidewalk repair in relation to the Property Maintenance Ordinance would be
76 completed?

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78 Joseph Muzio, 69 Glenwood Avenue; – Mr. Muzio spoke regarding Roberts Rules of
79 Order pertaining to Minutes. Mr. Muzio stated he was informed that the Property
80 Maintenance Code is not being enforced. Mayor Cherchi answered Mr. Muzio.

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82 Kathy Pecht, 215 Fort Lee Road; - Asked if certain items would be discussed this
83 meeting or on the next agenda? Council President Puzzo responded they would be on the
84 next meeting.

85 86 **REPORTS**

87 88 **Standing Committees**

89 Finance & Personnel – Councilwoman Heveran reported the Health
90 Department has conducted interviews for a new person and the process
91 has been completed.

92 The parking lot behind the Bank of America has been cleaned.

Public hearing and adoption of the 2006 Municipal Budget will be on April 17, 2006.

Laws & Ordinances Councilman Puzzo reported that the Laws & Ordinances Committee had a meeting to discuss boarding houses, flag lots, soil movement, and the current indemnification looking to put a cap on the rate for the attorney if one needs to be retained, and eminent domain.

Police Councilman Ryan reported there is nothing more to report at this time.

Fire Councilwoman Heveran reported that for the month of March 27 calls and 33 for February. The Fire Committee had a meeting.

Ambulance Councilman Raucci met with Mr. Tappen. There are 20 members currently and four in training. Mr. Tappen explained the stipend program. Ice problem on the north side of the building, the storm drains appear not able to handle the runoff and is causing an icing condition.

Public Works Councilman Ryan the Annex is improved. The ability to put everything under lock and key this will save the Borough money with not having to put in another egress. The DPW has removed approx 80 stalks and stumps have been ground as well. Patching of potholes will begin shortly using hot patch. All parks have been cleaned. The Superintendent has a temporary employee he is desirous of making permanent. Councilman Ryan believes this is in the budget. The DPW is trying to clean all the storm drains there are 400 storm drains. Beechwood has been bid and awarded.

At this point in the meeting Councilwoman Heveran made a motion to extend the meeting to 10:30pm, seconded by Councilman Hawkins. All in favor none opposed.

Real Estate and Insurance Councilman Hawkins reported on the Fort Lee Road property it is a four story building.

Borough Administrator all five easements have been received. Spring Street loan cannot be done in the 2006 funding round will continue with the application. There will be Green Acres Hearing on April 10 for a grant. A stray cat needed to be put down it scratched a child. The Borough Administrator and the Borough Attorney will have a meeting to go over initiatives of the Laws and Ordinances Committee. Sod is being put down in Sylvan Park. Station Parkway settlement; the Borough Administrator explained a bill for work that was necessary to be done on the Station Parkway Project. A community service worker has been cleaning Broad Avenue and the parking lot. Suit was filed today in the CSX case. The

Borough Administrator explained why the Borough is taking the base bid for Beechwood Place.

Mayor attended a meeting of the Leonia Education Foundation they are looking for new members.

Special Bodies of the Borough no report

RESOLUTIONS

Mayor Cherchi noted Resolution 06-108 needs to be substituted for the one memorializing Councilman Raucci's donation of time.

Councilman Ryan made a motion to approve resolutions 06-98 and 06-99, , 06-101 through 06-109 and 06-111, seconded by Councilwoman Mitrani. Roll call vote; Councilpersons Hawkins, Heveran, Mitrani, Raucci, Ryan and Puzzo voted yes.

Resolution 06-100 Councilman Hawkins asked for an explanation. The Borough Administrator explained the resolution. Council President Puzzo made a motion to approve 06-100, seconded by Councilman Hawkins. Roll call vote; Councilpersons Hawkins, Heveran, Mitrani Raucci, Ryan Puzzo voted yes.

Resolution 06-110 Council President Puzzo stated he pulled this for a separate vote the vendor is Verizon and he will abstain.

A motion to approve Resolution 06-110 was made by Councilwoman Mitrani, seconded by Councilman Ryan. Roll call vote; Councilpersons Hawkins, Heveran, Mitrani, Raucci, Ryan voted yes. Council President Puzzo abstained. Resolution approved.

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES

Adoption of Ordinance 02-06 entitled:

CALENDAR YEAR 2006 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)

Borough Clerk read the Ordinance by Title
Public Hearing – no one spoke.

A motion was made by Councilperson Puzzo seconded by Councilperson Heveran to approve on final Reading Ordinance 02-06

Roll call vote; Councilperson Hawkins, Heveran, Mitrani, Raucci, Ryan, Puzzo voted yes. Ordinance 02-06 adopted.

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Adoption of Ordinance 03-06 entitled:

**AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL A PORTION OF THE CODE OF THE
BOROUGH OF LEONIA, DESIGNATED AS CHAPTER 258, SECTION
258-1 THROUGH 258-4 THEREOF, ENTITLED “TAXATION”**

Borough Clerk read the Ordinance by Title.
Public Hearing – no one spoke

A motion was made by Councilperson Puzzo seconded by
Councilperson Hawkins to approve on final reading Ordinance 03-06

**Roll call vote; Councilperson Hawkins, Heveran, Mitrani,
Raucci, Puzzo. Voted yes, Councilman Ryan voted no. Ordinance adopted.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Because of the late hour all unfinished business was held until the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Martin Monaco, 352 Highwood Avenue – Mr. Monaco inquired if the Borough was aggressively enforcing the sidewalk ordinance. Council President Puzzo reported that the Laws and Ordinances Committee has met and no substantial changes will be made affecting the way the Property Maintenance Officer can enforce the Ordinance. Mr. Monaco asked why when residents were given written warnings they were not pursued any further. Mayor Cherchi stated you were here when the Council decided to suspend the Ordinance until it was reviewed. Council President Puzzo stated if the Property Maintenance Officer is working under that guideline then that directive be rescinded and he be told to enforce the existing Ordinance.

Councilman Puzzo made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Raucci. All in favor; none opposed.

As there was no further business before the Governing Body, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30pm

Respectfully submitted,

Fran Lehmann
Borough Clerk